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AAAS Statement on U.S. Government Shutdown

“We are disappointed that Congress could not reach a compromise in order to keep government open. The U.S. government shutdown deals another serious blow to an already beleaguered American scientific enterprise. Operating under a post-sequestration funding environment has stressed our innovation system, and the United States risks losing our global leadership in science. Federal research and development (R&D) as a share of gross domestic product has declined from 1.25 percent of GDP to 0.82 percent today, which is at a nearly 40-year low. We urge policymakers to come together and work on a final omnibus bill for fiscal year 2018 that raises the budget caps for discretionary funding.”

-- Rush Holt, chief executive officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

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